Programme (APDRP) is a major step towards reduction of Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) Losses. Under this programme, projects with a total outlay of Rs.663.63 crore have been sanctioned for M.P., with APDRP component of Rs. 230.74 crore out of which Rs. 129.87 crore have been released upto 31.3.2006.

(iii) A 500 MW unit of Vindhyachal STPS-III has been commissioned on 27th July, 2006 and projects with a total capacity of 1500 MW in central sector are scheduled to be commissioned during 2006-07. Madhya Pradesh will have share in these stations as per entitlement.

Status of Science Sector

†2531. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister's scientific advisor, Prof. C.N.R. Rao, has recently commented on the status of science in the country;

(b) if so, the status of science sector in the country as per his comment;

(c) whether the actual status of science sector is different; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Professor C.N.R. Rao, Chairman, Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister has expressed concern on the current status of science in the country. Attention has been drawn to important issues concerning science which include: poor enrolment of devoted young people into science education, declining trend of Indian science contributions at International academic level; scale of our investment in science in State and Central Universities; lack of growth of number of institutions of excellence, lack of freedom of operation in scientific and higher educational institutions.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Indian Science, as judged by the Scientific Research publications has improved over the last twenty five years. The absolute number of research publications has gone up from 14983 in 1980 to 19448 in 2005. However, our contribution as percentage of world publications has declined from 2.9% in 1980 to 1.9% in 2005. Considering the current status of science, the Government had already taken significant measures such as: setting up of three new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER); funds for rejuvenating basic research and higher education in university sector; establishment of new research centres of excellence; strengthening of Research and Development infrastructure in academic institutions and research laboratories, institution of fellowships for encouraging young and active scientists, specific programmes for encouraging women scientists. The Government is also considering to provide a number of new opportunities to students to take up science as a career.

Government has recognized that the competitiveness of Indian Science and Technology (S&T) system is under challenge on account of large scale investments in other countries in Asia-Pacific region in S&T. This is based on scientific analysis. The Government is proposing to address the issue of right sizing the investments into S&T and higher education sector during the Eleventh Plan period.

Level of R and D in Scientific Institutions

2532. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the level of R&D in all the major scientific institutes and universities in the country has gone down in comparison to other developing countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether one of the reasons for such set back is that research scholars in various disciplines are not being provided the requisite facilities and financial assistance to carry out their research properly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and measures taken to improve the R&D environment in the country?